

BARBER COUNTY INDEX.

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Official Paper of Barber County.

MORT ALBAUGH calls the new ballot law a death trap. Right he is. It is the only thing that keeps the Kelleyites and that ilk at the pie counter.

BEFORE the Cresset goes to quoting decisions it should post up. Judge Doster did not write the majority opinion in the Parker-Hughes case. He wrote the dissenting opinion.

It may be poor consolation for former candidates to know that a majority of the vote was for them and honestly voted for them, but they were ruled out by a ballot law that should have been entitled "An act to suppress opposition to ring rule."—Kiowa News-Review.

FOR a candidate who had the fight "won" two months ago, Chester I. Long is a mighty busy man. He is up till midnight, every night, hearing reports from his runners and field riders. It is said that Mr. Long has the material for a fine book, entitled, "Little Journeys to the Homes of Doubtful Members."—Topeka Herald.

THE attorneys for the Independent committee say that the statement in the Cresset last week that Mr. Nixon offered to recount the vote is false. If Mr. Nixon will make that proposition over his own signature in the presence of witnesses it will be accepted so quick it will make his head swim. If it is anything on earth that the machine don't want it is a recount. On that proposition they are cowards.

THE campaign after the election is warmer than it was before election. And in Kansas that is very proper. Kansas people are not in the habit of being run over and whenever a minority undertakes to count out a majority there is "something doing." Oh, but you say, we have the power and can do anything. But you can't. You may defeat the people temporarily but like Banquo's Ghost, they will not down.

THE Copeland county politicians generally agree that the tactics employed in Barber county to land a representative pledged to Chester I. Long for senator will weaken Mr. Long. The courts may say that the Long candidate is entitled to eight votes which were never polled, but the people, who are not versed in the mysteries and technicalities of the law, are saying that the transaction smacks of fraud.—Topeka Herald, Rep.

If the republicans really and sincerely believe that there were illegal votes counted for the Independent candidates there is a way to get at a correction without resorting to a scheme to count votes in another township which they admit they did not receive. Suppose, for the sake of the argument, it should be admitted that illegal ballots were counted at Lake City, does that justify them in committing fraud in Elwood? Is this government founded on such a theory as that? If a man had a horse stolen, would that justify the fellow who suffered the loss to steal some other horse? We deny that there was an illegal vote counted in Lake City, but if there was does that give a good reason why eight more votes should be counted in Elwood than were cast? Let every honest man think over this proposition.

COMPLETE returns show that the amendment to increase salaries of the members of the legislature was defeated after all and the state has been saved a big sum of money. Do you see how nice the principle of the referendum works? If this amendment could have been adopted by the legislature it would have passed, but when the people got a shot at it, it went down. If they could get a whack at the ballot law it would be nowhere, and so with every obnoxious law. We hope the day will come when every law passed by the legislature must be submitted to the people at a given per cent demand it, before it becomes operative. Then will the taxpayer and voters find relief from the tyranny heaped upon them by demagogues in our legislatures. At present we have the right to vote only on amendments. It ought to extend to every measure, and especially in cases where purity in politics and the safety of personal liberty are involved.

SELF-GOVERNMENT PREFERABLE.

The attention of the editor of the Commoner has been called to an epigram coined by a minister in the course of a sermon, namely: "Self government is preferable to good government." The phrase was used in defending the wisdom of the plan whereby man was made a free moral agent and left to choose between good and evil, rather than created as a perfect being or placed in an environment which made sin impossible. There is no doubt that a Creator capable of making a world could have made man perfect and could have relieved him of all temptation, but instead of that He placed man in a world full of temptation and made him responsible for his conduct. Instead of being placed under the arbitrary power of someone who would care for and protect him, he was left to govern himself and made to suffer if he failed to govern himself well. We do not find fault with this arrangement of Providence nor do we question the wisdom of the plan.

There is a very evident analogy between the self-government of the individual and the doctrine of self-government in nations. As the individual has a right to make mistakes, the penalty being suffering, so the people have a right to make mistakes, paying the penalty for lack of wisdom. In no other way can people be taught to take an active and intelligent interest in public affairs, and only by taking an interest in public affairs can they perfect themselves in the art of self-government.

The people of the United States govern themselves, and yet it is evident that they make frequent mistakes. The republicans asserted in 1896 that the people would make a mistake if they elected the ticket nominated by the Chicago convention, and they further insisted that a terrible punishment would follow the mistake. The democrats, on the other hand asserted that the people would make a mistake if they elected the republican ticket. They assert now that the people are suffering from the mistake. The reign of trusts is a direct consequence of the republican victory of 1896, and so is the imperialistic policy which has plunged this nation into enormous expenditure and led it to appropriate nearly forty times as much for the army and navy as it expends on the department of agriculture. The republicans are constantly asserting that the election of a democratic president in 1892 brought hard times and filled the country with soup houses. A majority of the democrats are willing to admit that the election resulted in mistakes, but they insist that the mistakes of the democrats were made in the adoption of republican policies rather than the carrying out of democratic theories of government. But these instances are cited only to show that we recognize the liability of people to make mistakes, even when so far advanced in civilization as the American people are. Who would be willing to accept foreign domination even if assured that such alien government would be absolutely free from error?

Why not apply to the Filipinos the same logic that we apply to ourselves? Why not recognize that they have a right to self government, even if they are liable to make mistakes? Why not recognize that the punishment which comes from those mistakes is in itself an educating influence? Why not recognize that self government, with all its imperfections, will be better for the Filipinos than any outside government which could be forced upon them against their will?

Not only is "self-government" preferable to good government," but among mortals with their selfishness and shortsightedness self government is likely to be better than any irresponsible government, for no nation can be selfish enough to desire colonies and yet unselfish enough to govern them wisely.—Bryan's Commoner.

The charge made that five illegal votes were counted in Lake City township for the Independent candidates is false. We are willing that the question shall be put up to the supreme court.

THE Index counts it a compliment to be dubbed a liar by the devil's imp. For a man who has had to swallow his own vomit as often as the poor fellow who poses as the editor of the Cresset, has had to, it looks very silly for him to call others liars, who always do substantiate what they say.

If Mr. Nixon is so certain that he received 18 votes in Elwood township, why does he not propose to recount that township? If he will consent to that and the votes show up as he claims, the matter will be settled without litigation. But he won't do it. It is the office he wants and it makes no difference what methods are employed to get it.

Dr. Matt Hughes Lectures

December 2nd.

Everyone who heard Col. Ham listen! On Dec. 2nd, you will have the privilege of a lecturer who is Col. Ham's equal. Dr. Matt Hughes, one of the greatest orators and lecturers in the west, will deliver his famous lecture on "The American Pessimist." In this lecture you will have to laugh, think and if you are an habitual pessimist get very uneasy because of the way he

handles you. Dr. Hughes is just as hard on the pessimist as Col. Ham was on the snollygoster. A prominent man has said, "I should hate to be a consistent pessimist and collide with the cool, conversational logic of Dr. Hughes. I should be afraid of meeting the fate of the cow on the railroad track." Much of his success lies in his style and splendid flow of language. "He

steps out to one side of his pulpit and uncorks a flow of language uninterrupted." He has a most splendid voice and a very striking manner. He truly is a worthy man and full able to follow Col. Ham. Do not fail to hear him on Tuesday night, Dec. 2nd. Buy your season tickets at once. Let those who live within ten miles of town buy tickets.

LAW, MAYBE, BUT NOT SENSE.

The reported ruling of Judge Gillett that the commissioners of Barber county must certify to an error in the election count because they had no right to go back of the returns may be law, but it certainly is not sense.

There is no question that only forty-nine votes were cast in Elwood precinct, nor is there any question that Nixon received only ten votes for Representative. But the election board made an error on the tally sheet by which Nixon was given eighteen votes although the members of the election board and all others who were interested in the election of Elwood say that Nixon is given credit for eight more votes than he received and they all agree that the returns show a total vote of fifty-seven, when the poll books show that only forty-nine persons voted.

The county commissioners corrected the error and declared the election of Walker for Representative by a majority of five. Nixon then asked Judge Gillett to compel the commissioners to follow the face of the returns, mistake and all, and the judge did so on the ground that the commissioners could not go back of the returns.

Possibly Judge Gillett is right. Possibly the Supreme court will sustain him. That being the case Judge Gillett's ruling is law. But the public will never believe that it is sense.—Topeka Herald, Republican.

We would like to ask every republican in Barber county to read this because it comes from the most eminent republican authority in the state.

The Herald might have added that whatever is not sense ought not to be law.

THE INTENTION OF THE VOTER.

Since the election is over, leading men in politics throughout the state have gone to criticizing the new ballot law. From returns so far received, it is agreed by all parties that from 30,000 to 45,000 ballots cast were not counted. The intention of the voter in these rejected ballots was plain, but the law is so hedged about with technicalities that there were grounds for throwing them aside.

Everybody admits that these votes should have been counted. Gov. Bailey, a republican, the newly elected chief magistrate, is quoted as saying so and in fact the leading attorneys of the county and state say so. The sentiment is universal. The legislature, although strongly republican, will be forced to restore in part at least, the right of franchise. Many of them have already pledged themselves in favor of it and those who still stand for the other thing will be compelled to come down on account of public indignation. The intention of the voter has always governed heretofore. The highest court has so held repeatedly. It is a principle founded on honesty and justice and this year ought not to be made an exception. The fundamental principle upon which freedom is based is the extension of the right of franchise. What does it matter what we may think on public questions if we can not get our votes counted?

That sort of thing may be tolerated in the ignorant districts of New York where men are herded like sheep, but here in Kansas it can not last.

BEN WADSWORTH received eight votes for commissioner in Elwood township. People down that way recognized him as fit for a good official and they showed it by voting for him even if it could not be counted.—Cresset.

If that is true, those eight republican ballots are all void under that infamous ballot law, yet they were counted for the entire republican ticket. Again how is it that you claim only eight votes for Wadsworth in that precinct and eighteen for Nixon, when the tallies appeared in the same column in each instance? Fraud? Well we should guess, yes.

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IT'S A GO.

In behalf of Nixon, the defeated republican candidate for representative, the Cresset, his official mouth piece, proposes a recount. That is just what the Independent people have been wanting and if the republican machine is sincere this matter can be speedily settled out of court. And if the recount takes place and is conducted fairly, it should include every other county officer. It would not only show the election of H. C. Walker by a large majority but all the other Independent candidates excepting two.

But we are inclined to think that the "proposition" is a mere bluff. They don't want a recount unless they are given power to throw out ballots marked in the Independent column. That thing won't be tolerated for a single moment. The machine may as well be given to understand now as later that the people of Barber county are going to put an end to this thing of stealing elections. They are mightily interested. They are going down into their pockets to fight for their rights and when men from all over the county take that much interest something is liable to drop. If republicans are to be seated in the face of the fact that other candidates receive the highest number of votes, there is no further use of going to the expense of holding elections. Simply let a few bosses fix it up and put it through a packed convention and let the people pay the taxes. Are you for that kind of government? If not, get in with the multitudes now, who want an honest count.

READY TO REPEAL IT.

The Republican leaders have decided to repeal the ballot law at the coming session of the legislature. It has done its dirty work, accomplished its nefarious purpose and is of no further use.

To face another election with this iniquitous measure to defend is not a pleasing prospect for the party in power. From one end of the state to the other come only criticism and denunciation of this law.

Perhaps the beneficiaries may be satisfied with its workings but there are cases where its rigid interpretation has cost Republicans an office. They threaten to contest and attack the law.

The real intent of the repealers is to rescue their party from future peril. Fusion having been outlawed and the Populist driven to one of the old parties, there is no longer need of an unfair law. Not only must the party defend it unless repealed, but its workings hereafter will hurt the majority more than the minority. Like all unjust methods it will come home to roost if left on statute books.

Under its provision there will be no more splitting among opposition voters. It drove the opposition together this year to some extent but not so perfectly as it will next time because it required one election to give the voters an ob-

ject lesson.

Next election the Republicans already realize that a split is more likely in their own ranks than in those of the Democracy and to protect themselves against the disfranchisement contained in the law they will repeal it.

It would be pleasant to believe that this repeal idea sprang from a sense of justice, but it will be a long time before the Republican machine in Kansas will inspire confidence in its fairness.—Wichita Beacon.

The big half of the Cresset and the little sixth should get together. According to Judge Lester Rey, Dibbans got five democratic votes to two republicans, but Lorton says that no democrats voted for Dibbans at all.

The Parker-Hughes case, cited by the machine to justify themselves in trying to count Nixon in, has no application to their case. Besides, the very decision cited did not give the office to Parker and it does not give it to Nixon.

Don't fail to hear Dr. Hughes Dec. 2nd. Buy your season tickets now.

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Following the November election soon comes the session of the legislature which will be fully reported.

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